

# IDEAL Technical Assistance

## Use of an Interpreter

### Why Would a Bilingual Evaluation be Needed?

- It is a federal mandate within IDEA that every child has a culturally and linguistically appropriate educational evaluation in the language(s) of the child from birth through high school exit.
- Provides a bridge to appropriate recommendations and paints a complete picture of the child.



### What qualifications are required of a Bilingual Evaluator?

- Knowledge and training on multilingual language development, including the impact of culture.
- Fluent in both languages; if not, able to use interpreter ethically and appropriately.
- Incorporate quality informed clinical judgment to determine child's functional levels.
- Incorporates variety of methods to obtain information beyond exclusively translating formal tests designed for English.
- Understands testing statistics; considers reliability, validity, and bias in evaluation materials.

### What Should the Evaluator Ensure the Interpreter Knows/Has?

- Appropriate certification for the language being interpreted.
- Overview of assessment purpose, session, and activities.
- Formal assessment processes to maintain validity.
- Flexibility in positioning to allow for optimal visual and auditory access
- Additional factors that may impact assessment.
- Importance of the following:
  - Technical terms
  - Precise translation
  - Cross-cultural perspectives
  - Limiting non-verbal cues
  - Taking notes

- <https://www.leadersproject.org/>
- <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/federal/idea/IDEA-Part-B-Issue-Brief-Culturally-and-Linguistically-Diverse-Students/>
- [https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589935334&section=Key\\_Issues](https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589935334&section=Key_Issues)
- *Professional Guidelines for Interpreting in Educational Settings, First Edition, January 2019, National Association of Interpreters In Education, NAIE*